

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Claims 11, 13, 32, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0149980 to Hassell et al. (“Hassell”). Hassell is directed to an electronic program guide with integrated program listings where the “program guide gives users the ability to store information associated with recorded programs in a directory in the digital storage device, thereby providing easy access to program information. The program guide may also provide a global media library for indicating the programs stored on removable storage media used with the program guide. The guide may also allow the user to manage and maintain a user media library to do the same. Non-time-sensitive data associated with recorded programs may be stored in a way that allows the user to interact with the data on playback as if the program were being originally aired. The program guide also allows the user to define ‘super-programs’ for playback of a sequence of stored programs or program segments.” (Abstract).

As to claim 11, the present Office Action alleges that the claimed database integrator operatively connected to a plurality of digital material databases that produces an extended electronic program guide for display from the plurality of digital material databases is taught by the main menu of Hassell’s FIG. 4. (Office Action, p. 2). According to the Office Action, the main menu of FIG. 4 produces for display the electronic program guide wherein a user can select the media directory option 53 for accessing information related to the recorded material. Applicants respectfully submit that the main menu of FIG. 4 appears to be nothing more than an electronic interface or, as described by Hassell in paragraph 27, a display screen that allows a user access to a number of features of the program guide. Such features may include program listings, recording schedules, the digital storage medium directory, etc. Because the cited main menu display screen appears to be nothing more than an interface presented on a screen for a

user to interact with, Applicants respectfully question how the main menu anticipates the claimed database integrator, which, among other things, is operatively connected to the plurality of digital material databases and further produces an extended electronic program guide for display from the plurality of digital databases. Because the main menu of Hassell's FIG. 4 appears to be nothing more than a display screen with no other capabilities beyond displaying to the user options and features of the program guide, Applicants respectfully submit that the main menu does not anticipate the claimed database integrator that is operatively connected to the plurality of digital material databases and further produces an extended program guide for display from the plurality of digital material databases. Accordingly, claim 11 appears to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Claim 13 depends upon allowable claim 11 and further contains additional novel and nonobvious patentable subject matter. For at least these reasons, claim 13 is also submitted for allowance.

Claims 32 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 6–10, 15–26, and 28–31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,041 to Knudson (“Knudson”). Claims 23 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 6, 16, 19, 24, and 26 have been amended to generally include the limitations of canceled claim 25. For instance, the following limitation has been added to each of the aforementioned claims: “wherein the extended electronic program guide is organized as a grid of entries, each of the entries including the information related to at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream and wherein at least one entry indicates presence of existent recorded material associated with the information related to the at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream, when available.” Similarly, claim 22 has been

amended to generally include the limitations previously presented in canceled claim 23. That is, claim 22 now includes the following limitation: “wherein displaying the extended electronic program guide comprises displaying a grid of entries, each of the entries including the information related to at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream and wherein at least one entry indicates presence of existent recorded material associated with the information related to the at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream, when available.”

Because the limitations added to claims 6, 16, 19, 22, 24, and 26 are similar in nature and are addressed collectively by the Office Action with citation to FIGS. 5A and 5B and ¶ 39 of Hassell, Applicants also address these limitations collectively. As taught in Hassell, FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate program listings grid 60 that have program listing rows, each corresponding to a given channel. Each of the program listing rows contain selectable program listings for one or more programs associated with the corresponding channel. (Hassell, ¶ 30). Hassell indicates that the program listings grid 60 preferably has moveable cell highlight region 61, which highlights the current grid cell. After a user positions highlight regions 61 on a desired selectable program listing, the user may access a number of program guide features. Making a selection directs the program guide to generate a program listing information screen for display on the monitor 45. An illustrative programs information screen 70 is shown in FIG. 6. Information displayed in information screen 70 may include any information associated with the listings supplied by main facility 12. The information may include, for example, the title of the selection, a description, episode information, the channel, cast members, parental control ratings, etc. (Hassell, ¶¶ 31–35).

Hassell further teaches that in one embodiment, a programs listings grid as shown in FIG. 5B may be used to indicate currently stored programs, thereby treating digital storage device 49 like an additional channel. Multiple levels may be used to organize listings according to organization criteria (e.g., by theme, program type, or any other predefined or user-defined selectable organization criteria). Each entry in a different column may correspond to a different movie stored on digital storage device 49. To view additional titles, the user may, for example, pan right or left by using the right or left cursor keys on the remote control. Just like the program listings grid 60 of FIG. 5A, program listings grid 141 of 5B may contain highlight region 149 to select listings in any of the rows, including row 145, and thereby access program listings information screen 70 (FIG. 6) for selecting a listing. If the user selects a program stored on digital storage device 49, the program guide responds by obtaining for display the information associated with the listing in programs information listing screen 70 from digital storage device 49 and by displaying programs information listing screen 70. The information for programs information listing screen 70 may be stored as a directory entry on digital storage device 49. (Hassell, ¶¶ 38–39).

As best understood by Applicants, Hassell is silent as to the claimed feature “wherein displaying the extended electronic program guide comprises displaying a grid of entries, each of the entries including the information related to at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream and wherein at least one entry indicates presence of existent recorded material associated with the information related to the at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream, when available.” Instead, Hassell appears to teach a guide having a grid of entries where each entry identifies a live, future or recorded program. Applicants respectfully submit that the ability of the user to navigate through entries, select a desired entry and view a

programs information listing screen affiliated with an entry is not equivalent to Applicants' claimed subject matter. Accordingly, for at least this reason, claims 6, 16, 19, 22, 24, and 26 are believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully repeat the relevant marks made above with respect to claim 11 and further note that Hassell fails to disclose a database integrator as suggested by the Office Action by its citation to the main menu of Hassell in FIG. 4. For at least this reason, and in addition to those presented above, claims 6, 16, 19, 22, 24, and 26 are also believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 7–10, 15, 17–18, 20–21, and 28–31 are dependent upon one of allowable claims 6, 16, 19, 22, 24 and 26 and further include additional novel and nonobvious subject matter not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited prior art. For at least these reasons, the aforementioned claims are also believed to be allowable.

Claims 12, 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hassell. Claims 33 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 12 depends upon allowable claim 11 and further contains additional novel and nonobvious subject matter not otherwise disclosed by the cited prior art. For at least these reasons, claim 12 should also be allowed.

With respect to new claims 36 and 39, Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above with respect to the independent claims. Specifically, Applicants note that new claims 36 and 36 include, among other things, a database integrator that produces for display the extended electronic programming guide and further includes an extended electronic program guide that is organized as a grid of entries, each of the entries including information related to at least one of: a current live stream and a future live stream and wherein at least one


entry indicates presence of existent recorded material associated with the information related to the at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream, when available. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit for allowance newly added claims 36 and 39.

Claims 37–38 depend upon allowable independent claim 36 while claims 40–41 depend upon allowable independent claim 39. It is further submitted that claims 37–38 and 40–41 further contain additional novel and nonobvious subject matter. For instance, claims 37 and 40 include the following claim limitation: “wherein the at least one entry indicates the presence of existent recorded material associated with the information related to the at least one of: the current live stream and the future live stream, when available using a symbol.” Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion in the cited prior art that anticipates or renders obvious these newly submitted claims. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit claims 37–38 and 40–41 for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/19/06

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